



Ninety-Ninth Legislature - First Session - 2005
Introducer's Statement of Intent
LB 51

Chairperson: Bob Kremer
Committee: Agriculture
Date of Hearing: January 18, 2005

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

LB 51 is brought at the request of the Department of Agriculture. The bill specifically authorizes the Department to perform laboratory testing services requested by state, local and federal governmental entities, or associations having governmental entities in their membership, in this state or other states. The Department is directed to establish a system of billing and fees that recovers the actual cost of performing the services. The Agricultural Laboratory Testing Services Cash Fund is created to receive payments for services performed under the authority of the bill. Only those testing services that relate to testing functions carried out in association with the Department's existing duties under various animal and plant health statutes may be performed for hire.

The purpose of LB 51 is to grant specific authorization for the Department to make its laboratory facilities available in the event of a surge of testing associated with, for example, a disease occurrence that may overwhelm the laboratory resources of other states or governmental entities. The bill implements an element to enable the Department to cooperate within interstate and intrastate partnerships to pool laboratory resources to assure sufficient laboratory resources are available to respond to a disease occurrence. The bill has the further purpose of authorizing the Department to perform analytical method verifications for testing used by other governmental entities or associations that have testing elements of their regulatory or certification programs.

Principal Introducer: _____
Senator Bob Kremer